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Info

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

As part contingency planning and in view likelihood Soviet or East German moves against allied access may take form protracted and intensifying harassments Dept and other interested agencies initiated study possible allied counter-harassments. Following is abbreviated version working level paper. Your preliminary comments requested by noon May 14 for use at May 15 inter-agency group meeting chaired by Murphy. Text paper being forwarded by pouch for your further study and comments.

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Counter-harassment to be equivalent in kind and severity to harassment and removable when harassment ended. Purpose to convey allied capacity for retaliation and determination to uphold access rights. Not expected measures by themselves force Soviets to back down and recognize allied Berlin access routes more fully vulnerable than Soviet bloc facilities or transportation elsewhere. Nevertheless, counter-harassments, in conjunction with other non-military and military measures, would be earnest Western intentions to resort more serious measures, if necessary.

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US capability act alone principally by use naval forces on high seas. Limited utility especially against minor harassments. Also employment naval forces probably involve more obvious application of force than Soviet-East German harassment. Could alienate world opinion and provoke chain of increasingly serious counter-actions. Advisable to have unified allied action.

Allied capabilities considerable, especially against Soviet bloc shipping in allied ports and in Dardanelles and Kiel canal where wide gamut counter-harassments available and Soviet capacity retaliate in kind/limited ~~(through economic measures against Berlin access offers broad possibilities)~~ Full NATO support and possibly some multi-lateral agreement on cost-sharing for more serious measures highly advisable and possibly requisite as burden applying counter-harassment would fall unequally on NATO members.

Mechanics applying counter-measures complicated, speed of allied retaliation essential, hence advance planning to develop operating capability should be initiated soonest.

Soviet, East German, Czechoslovak and Polish transportation offer vulnerable targets. Most useful to act against Soviet or East German, advisable to defer if possible action against Poles.

Counter-harassment by Federal Republic Germany economic measures and by allied military preparedness measures not comparable in nature to anticipated harassments Berlin access but might be usefully employed as complementary measures.

You shd not discuss above with local govt or officials unless instructed.

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